

VENONA

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USSR

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POLITICAL SITUATION IN FINLAND AS DESCRIBED
BY ZILLIACUS TO "KLARA"
(1944)

From: STOCKHOLM

8th January 1944

To: MOSCOW

Nos. 87, 88

[2-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR[i].

To 8th Department.

ZILLIACUS(TsILLIAKUS)[ii], who arrived from FINLAND on
5th January, told "KLARA"[iii] the following:

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[Continued overleaf]

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[Part II]

[2 groups unrecovered][e]

The programme of the Social-Democratic Party [7 groups unrecovered];

1. Military

[31 groups unrecovered]

troops from FINLAND.

3. Proof to RUSSIA and the Allies that [2 groups unrecovered] seek a way both to peace and to friendly relations with RUSSIA. [3 groups unrecovered] [3 groups unrecovered] BENTZ type government could establish relations with the USSR similar to Soviet-Czechoslovak relations[d]. RUSKIVII[xvi], who was formerly sympathetic towards and in touch with the opposition, [5 groups unrecovered], [1 group unrecovered] in view of the fact that the opposition does not believe in its[e] future and considers that RUSSIA is not and will not be interested in it[e]. Unless RUSSIA adopts a favourable attitude, there is no [2 groups unrecovered] of success. RUSSIA, in his opinion, will rely on another [1 group unidentified][f]. There is also the organised opposition of the Communists and the opposition movement of the liberal and left-radical [1 group unidentified][f]. The latter is headed by the lawyer PENTTALA[xvii]. They advocate an exclusively pro-Russian line and make no [3] claims to "[4 groups unrecovered]", [3 groups unrecovered] or to [1 group unrecovered] FINLAND[SUP I], which the Social-Democratic opposition, as a "vitally important" [4 groups unrecovered] and Russian [0] bases. [5 groups unrecovered] in the final analysis solve the Finnish question according to the Baltic States' [1 group unrecovered]. All the opposition trends are divided

[10 groups unrecovered]

parliamentary opposition. VIORI[xviii], the Secretary of the Trades Unions, is, as before, a supporter of TAMM, but [3 groups unrecovered] considering the position of FINLAND now to be [9 groups unrecovered] members.

KILPI

[31 groups unrecovered].

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[39 groups unrecoverable]

and ZILLIACUS.

Note: Z.'s[?] information can be trusted. He described the position in FINLAND to KLARA as he himself sees and assesses it.

No. 14

VALERIAN[?ix]

- Notes:
- [a] Or "to".
 - [b] This decrypts to "journalists" and it has been assumed that "journal", which is the next group in the code book, was intended.
 - [c] These two groups presumably represent a preamble e.g. "Continuation of telegram No. 14" or "Further to telegram No. 14".
 - [d] The FINNISH government signed a 20-year Treaty of Alliance with the USSR on 12th December 1943.
 - [e] Not clear to what "it" refers.
 - [f] The same unidentified group occurs in both positions.

- Comments:
- [i] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.
 - [ii] ZILLIACUS: ✓ Possibly Doctor Laurin ZILLIACUS, member of the Social Democratic Party of FINLAND.
 - [iii] KLARA: ✓
 - [iv] WALDEN: ✓ Lt. Gen. Karl Rudolf WALDEN, non-party, Minister of Defence in the Finnish (LINKOMIES) Government.
 - [v] TAPPER: ✓ Vaino Alfred TAPPER, Social Democrat, Minister of Finance in the Finnish (LINKOMIES) Government.
 - [vi] FURUNJEL: ✓ Prof. Elis Ragnar FURUNJEL, member of the Finnish Parliament.

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